



# Iowa Department of Human Rights

Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

Division of Community Action Agencies   Division of Community Advocacy and Services   Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning  
Offices of

Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs | Deaf Services | Latino Affairs | Native American Affairs | Persons with Disabilities | Status of African Americans | Status of Women

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## Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Lucas Building, Room 201, Des Moines

2 – 4 p.m.

The Department of Human Rights board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dr. Jill Olsen at 2:02 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Jill Olsen, Dr. James Snyder, Floyd Winter, Nathan Monson, Joan Jaimes, LaSheila Yates, Theresa Mahoney, Robert Tyson (teleconference), Sherri Soich.

Members absent: Don Southammavong, Stephan Pearson

Ex-Officio members present: Sen. Herman Quirnbach, Rep. Julian Garrett, Director San Wong

DHR staff: Danielle Plogmann, Mary Bowser, Bill Brand, Paul Stageberg, Kim Cheeks

Guests: Brian Mayer, DAS; Doug Denton, 960 E. Aurora, Des Moines; Karrie Truitt, captioner

**Agenda approval:** Soich motioned. Winter seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Approve April 5 meeting minutes:** Winter motioned. Tyson seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

No public comment.

**Department of Human Rights Director San Wong delivered the director's report.** She reiterated the vision of the department. Director Wong told members the department is undergoing a physical reconfiguration to make the department more welcoming and to build in some meeting space. Wong also introduced a goal to establish the Department of Human Rights as the leader in coordination of youth initiatives. That includes developing youth leadership curriculum in the long term to prepare students to participate in other youth-led initiatives. Dr. Olsen expressed the need to make sure we have research to show that solutions fit the problems as we move ahead with youth initiatives. Wong agreed. Monson referred members to [www.iowaYouthSurvey.org](http://www.iowaYouthSurvey.org).

**Staff budget analyst Mary Boswer delivered the financial update,** including a breakdown of funding sources by division, and a visual representation of those breakdowns. Bowser explained that the department's appropriation for FY2013 is 50% of FY2012. In October, at the request of the Department of Management, the department submitted a status quo budget for FY'13. Sen. Quirnbach explained the 50% number will be renegotiated when the legislature returns next year. Responding to a question from Dr. Snyder, Bowser explained DHR does have the funding to hire someone in both the Latino Affairs Office and the Deaf Services Office. Sen. Quirnbach asked to see expenditures to date relative to total authorization, which the department will supply electronically.

Budget discussion led to discussion of legislative liaison for the department. Dr. Snyder indicated he would like a dedicated person. Wong indicated that with current staffing restraints, she would communicate with legislators and Danielle Plogmann would help with research and bill tracking. Answering a question from Monson, Wong said certainly staff within the department will be allowed to share expertise directly with legislators. Sen. Quirnbach commented that staff interaction with legislators should be to provide information. He said commissioners should advocate to the legislature. Jaimes

suggested using Twitter as another way of keeping commissioners updated on bills of interest. Yates suggested forming a legislative task force comprised of DHR staff and commissioners.

### **Division Administrators delivered their reports.**

Paul Stageberg, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP).

CJJP consists of three components:

1. Justice System Research - Responsible for a wide variety of research functions, including the operation of the Justice Data Warehouse and the provision of correctional impact statements on proposed legislation. The "Statistical Analysis Center" has produced over 100 correctional impact statements on proposed legislation per year, although that number will fall considerably this year due to the loss of one staff.

2. Juvenile Justice – CJJP is the conduit for federal juvenile justice funds to the State. A major focus during the past four years has been the provision of assistance to local jurisdictions in reducing juvenile detention populations, particularly as regards minority over-representation.

3. CJIS – Criminal Justice Information System. Justice agencies throughout the nation increasingly recognize the importance of integrating their information systems in order to share critical data, documents, images, and key transactions. In recognition of this need, the State is developing and implementing a comprehensive integrated justice information system, permitting virtually instantaneous transmission of justice system data among agencies. Iowa's CJIS project is in the forefront of such projects nationally.

Bill Brand, Community Action Agencies

Division is primarily federally funded and currently operating on temporary spending until Congress passes a full budget. There are three parts:

-1. LiHEAP is low-income heating assistance. Last year \$71 million was spent serving 100,000 households. The average benefit was \$560/family. Currently the Senate is proposing \$62 million this year, compared to \$36 million in the House.

2. Weatherization assistance addresses health, safety and energy efficiency. By March 2012 we will have spent all \$80 million in ARRA funding received over two years. Senate is considering regular program funding at status quo - \$3.8 million, compared to zero funding in the House.

3. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) – This is the primary funding for Community Action Agencies. It includes HHS funding of \$7 million annually.

Kim Cheeks, Community Advocacy and Services (CAS)

CAS includes offices of Latino Affairs, Status of Women, Persons with Disabilities, Deaf Services, Status of African Americans, Native American Affairs and Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

-Each office provides information referral to clients and is responsible for maintaining its own website, etc. Latino Affairs is interviewing for an executive officer, API is working on green card clinics and seeking a volunteer or intern, Status of Women is hosting networking events and continuing the project to write women back into history, Deaf Services is working with the Fire Marshal's Office on a grant that would provide smoke detectors for deaf Iowans, Native American Affairs is celebrating Native American heritage month, Persons with Disabilities is working on year-end reports and serving clients, and Status of African Americans is planning a MLK., Jr. celebration and advancing a health screening program for African American men.

Moving forward, division reports will be submitted prior to the meetings.

**Guest Brian Mayer, Department of Administrative Services, made a presentation to the Board on strategic planning.** He said the purpose of strategic planning is to say where the organization will be going, how to get there, and then to determine whether you got there or not. Mayer recommended an organic method of strategic planning for the Board, focused on articulating the vision and developing a high-level action plan. The organic approach is more about gathering ideas and not as focused on specific wording. The Board asked Mayer to facilitate and he agreed. **The Board agreed to meet Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. for strategic planning.** December 17 is the back-up

date in case of snow. Mayer will compile materials that need to be completed beforehand, and Director Wong will distribute. Wong will notify board of meeting location.

Dr. Olsen adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Plogmann, DHR staff.